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P 151454Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7217

UNCLAS OSLO 000668

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

FOR HEATHER WARD, IO/MPR/SC AND MICHAEL SCANLON, USUN/MR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AMGT AORC APER PREL UNGA NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIANS RESPOND BLANDLY TO UN HARMONIZATION OF
CONDITIONS OF SERVICE PROPOSAL

REF: SECSTATE 129988

¶1. (SBU) Poloff spoke wth Lars Petter Henie, the deputy director of the UN MFA section regarding reftel. Henie said he wuld prefer to respond in a written medium, and thi was his diplomatic and nuanced response:

"We take great interest in the issue and efforts to imrove recruitment to UN operations. It has been or experience that UNAMA and UNAMI have become better staffed after the Fifth Committee granted special benefits for those two operations, but of course we agree that over-compensation should be avoided. From our point of view addressing the recruitment problems is more urgently needed than cost-saving measures but we appreciate these very constructive US comments."

WHITNEY